

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

"Personal use" is impossible to quantify technologically. There are so many variables in so many individual lives and legitimate uses that the broadcast flag is almost guaranteed to trip up consumers on one device or another.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

This is what it's designed to do. The broadcast industry may approve certain devices that accomplish these tasks in their own way, but what if you want to use devices you already own which are perfectly capable of doing the same work? In a weak economy, the requirement to buy new approved devices is a slap in the face to consumers.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

It would certainly make it difficult for old components to work with newer ones. Whether existing equipment will become harder to use is a less interesting question than whether it will still be available. I believe it won't.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, it would. Unintended consequences happen. Why would entrepreneurs in an already risky economy take the risk of a major DMCA lawsuit or the like? More importantly, the broadcast flag can be used to control content. Will all broadcasters be able to use it? Will protecting your content with the flag be prohibitively expensive for some?

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

There's a sort of "opportunity cost" here, of how much money the consumer could save if s/he could use the computer s/he already owns to accomplish much of what broadcast-flag-sensitive devices will do. Beyond that, it's hard to say whether major manufacturers will charge more for digital components. If I were them, I would.

#### Other Comments:

Someone is going to circumvent this anyway, and then we get locked into a technological arms race that will cost manufacturers and consumers billions of dollars they could be using for something a little more productive.